

(c) and (d) On September 9, 1996 Government announced a new policy to issue passports for 20 years at a time. However, in view of the continued interest and demand for 10 year validity passports, this policy was modified and an option given to applicants to apply for either a 10 year validity passport on payment of the existing fee of Rs. 300 or a 20 year validity passport on payment of an a fee of Rs. 600.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The United States has proposed on the basis of reciprocity, the maximum period of validity of business and tourist visas to be increased from 5 years to 10 years. Visas issued to applicants under 18 years of age would be limited to a maximum of 5 years. Both sides would have the discretion to issue visa for less than the maximum period of validity.

(g) The US proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Modernisation of Madarsa Education

3490. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the plan outlay made in Eighth Plan for the Scheme on modernisation of Madarsa education;

(b) the funds utilised during the plan period and the number of beneficiaries State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the low utilisation of funds;

(d) whether the Scheme would continue for the 9th Plan as well;

(e) whether any steps have been taken to publicise the Scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The allocation for Madarsa Education in the Eighth Plan is Rs. 1.00 crore. Total grant released upto 12.3.97 is Rs. 1.72 crores. Statewise details are given in the attached statement-I and II.

(d) Planning Commission have not finalised the Ninth Plan.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Copies of the scheme of 'Modernisation of Madarsa Education' and of a pamphlet were sent to Director of School Education/Higher Education, Chairman of Minority Commissions, State Education Secretaries members of National Council for Promotion of Urdu, etc. give wide publicity to the scheme.

Statement-I

(Amount in Rupees)

S.No.	Name of the State	Year			
		1993-94		1994-95	
		Amount released	No. of Madarsas	Amount released	No. of Madarsas
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 3,04,000/-	10	Rs. 11,69,600/-	40
2.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	Rs. 5,88,600/-	19
3.	Haryana	-	-	Rs. 1,52,000/-	5
4.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-
5.	Kerala	-	-	-	-
6.	Tripura	-	-	-	-
7.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-
8.	Assam	-	-	-	-
9.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-
10.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
11.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-
12.	Delhi	-	-	-	-
13.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-
14.	Bihar	-	-	-	-
15.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-
Total		Rs. 3,04,000/-	10	Rs. 18,99,200/-	64

Statement-II

(Amount in Rupees)

S.No.	Name of the State	Year			
		1995-96		1996-97	
		Amount released	No. of Madarsas	Amount released	No. of Madarsas
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 34,88,000/-	120	Rs. 9,42,400/-	31
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 11,09,600/-	39	-	-
3.	Haryana	Rs. 1,32,000/-	5	-	-
4.	Karnataka	Rs. 2,73,600/-	9	-	-
5.	Kerala	Rs. 12,76,800/-	42	-	-
6.	Tripura	Rs. 7,29,600/-	24	-	-
7.	West Bengal	Rs. 24,32,000/-	80	-	-
8.	Assam	Rs. 19,45,600/-	64	-	-
9.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 30,400/-	1	-	-
10.	Sikkim	Rs. 30,400/-	1	-	-
11.	Rajasthan	Rs. 4,07,000/-	For establishment of book banks.	-	-
12.	Delhi	Rs. 1,52,000/-	5	-	-
13.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	Rs. 10,94,400/-	36
14.	Bihar	-	-	Rs. 9,42,400/-	31
15.	Chandigarh	-	-	Rs. 30,400/-	1
Total :		Rs. 1,20,07,000/-	390	Rs. 30,09,600/-	99

*[Translation]***Adulteration of Food Items**

3491. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of adulteration of food items, particularly in edible oil in the markets have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have tested such adulterated poisonous food items and soft drinks sold in markets;

(d) if so, the action taken against those involved in it;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the said adulteration of food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) Out of eight (8) samples of edible oils collected by the Field Staff of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public

Distribution from the cities of Ahmedabad and Chennai (Madras) during 1996, three (3) samples were found to be not conforming to the standards. However, no poisonous matter has been reported to be present in the aforesaid samples of edible oils. No case of presence of poisonous matter in samples of soft drinks has also been reported to this Ministry.

(d) and (e) The concerned State Governments of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have been advised to take appropriate action in the matter as per law.

(f) Standards of commonly used food articles including edible oils and soft drinks have been prescribed under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder. The Food (Health) Authorities of States/U.Ts enforcing the provisions of the P.F.A. Act, 1954, are periodically advised to keep a strict vigil on the quality of food items sold in markets.

CGWB for Water Wells

3492. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the places where digging work for water well has been undertaken by Central Ground Water Board in 1996-97;